



Connecticut After 3PM

In 2009, Connecticut parents/guardians were asked about their children's regular participation in various after school care arrangements, with a special focus on afterschool program participation and satisfaction. The *America After 3PM* survey identified the supply of and demand for afterschool programs, as well as the major barriers to program enrollment.

After School Care Arrangements

- **28% (172,417)** of Connecticut's K-12 children are responsible for taking care of themselves after school. These children spend an average of **9** hours per week unsupervised after school.
- **18% (112,663)** of Connecticut's K-12 children participate in afterschool programs. On average, afterschool participants spend **8** hours per week in afterschool programs. Participation averages **3** days per week.
- **70%** of Connecticut K-12 children spend some portion of the hours after school in the care of a parent or guardian.
- Other care arrangements include traditional child care centers (**9%**), sibling care (**14%**) and non-parental adult care, such as a grandparent or neighbor (**35%**).

Notes: The maximum amount of time in after school care arrangements is limited to 15 hours per week, which reflects the after school hours of 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Care arrangements add up to greater than 100% due to multiple regular care arrangements for many children.

Satisfaction with and Support for Afterschool Programs

- **95%** of Connecticut parents are satisfied with the afterschool program their child attends.
- Connecticut parents cited affordability (**70%**), child enjoyment (**63%**) and convenient location (**61%**) as their top three reasons for selecting an afterschool program.
- **90%** of adults surveyed in Connecticut agree that there should be "some type of organized activity or place for children and teens to go after school every day that provides opportunities to learn" and **87%** support public funding for afterschool programs.

Need or Demand for Afterschool

- **33% (168,228)** of all Connecticut children not in afterschool would be likely to participate if an afterschool program were available in the community, regardless of their current care arrangement.
- Parents of non-participants believe that their children would benefit most from afterschool programs in the following ways: by having fun, improving their physical activity, improving their social skills, staying safe and out of trouble and receiving academic enrichment.





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Barriers to Enrolling in Afterschool Programs

- After lack of need, the predominant obstacles to enrollment include cost, preference for alternative activities and transportation.

Contextual Information about Afterschool Programs

- In Connecticut, the public schools are the largest provider of afterschool programs. Boys & Girls Clubs, YMCAs, religious organizations and private schools round out the top five providers of afterschool programs in the state.
- On average, Connecticut families spend **\$80** per week for afterschool programs.

National Comparison and Trends – 2004 to 2009

	2009		2004	
	Connecticut %	National %	Connecticut %	National %
Percentage of Kids in Afterschool Programs	18	15	14	11
Percentage of Kids in Self Care	28	26	26	25
Percentage of Kids in Sibling Care	14	14	9	11
Percentage of Parents Extremely/Somewhat Satisfied with Afterschool Program	95	89	90	91
Percentage of Kids Who Would Participate if an Afterschool Program were Available	33	38	22	30

About America After 3PM

In Connecticut, 497 households were surveyed for this study. Among those households, 26 percent qualified for free or reduced price lunch, 10 percent were Hispanic and 8 percent were African-American. According to U.S. Department of Education data from 2005-2006, the total school enrollment in Connecticut is 622,445, which is the foundation for all statewide projections in Connecticut After 3PM.

America After 3PM was sponsored by the JCPenney Afterschool Fund. Between March and May 2009, 29,754 parents/guardians responded to survey questions about their after school child care arrangements during the 2008-2009 school year. RTi, a market research firm, conducted the survey and analyzed the data for the Afterschool Alliance. Additional information from America After 3PM is available at www.afterschoolalliance.org.

